

Department of Commerce
Division of Forestry

Mission

The Division of Forestry's mission is to protect, nurture, and promote the wise utilization of the State's forest resources to ensure that they are a major contributor to the State's economy on a sustainable basis in the most practical, cost-efficient manner.

Operations

Cooperative Forestry Assistance

- Promote and increase forest management activities through use of private consultants.
- Provide technical assistance for several federal forestry cost-share programs.
- Provide environmental education to schools and other groups.
- Provide training to the forest industry to increase the utilization of the forest resource through improved operations.

Fire Mobilization and Suppression

- Provide forest fire suppression.
- Train volunteers, volunteer fire departments, and others in forest fire suppression techniques.
- Investigate causes of forest fires.
- Maintain emergency fire tool caches.
- Provide prevention education through the Smokey Bear program.
- Provide homeowner assistance in the wildland/urban interface.

Forest Tree Nursery

- Grow forest tree seedlings for sale to landowners for reforestation and reclamation purposes.
- Maintain forest tree seed production areas.

Technical Forestry Services

- Perform forest fire prevention and preparedness activities.
- Provide technical assistance to nonindustrial private forest landowners.
- Administer Logging Sediment Control Act, including training, certification, and enforcement.
- Weigh and certify ginseng for export.
- Manage eight state forests for multiple uses.

Urban and Community Forestry

- Assist urban residents with conservation education in proper care of shade and street trees.
- Assist communities with urban tree planting and maintenance programs.
- Conduct training for communities and tree care firms.
- Promote the National Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA program to all cities with an urban forestry program.

Recommended Improvements

- ✓ Additional spending authority of \$930,027 in Federal Funds for the USDA Forest Service Forestry Legacy program.

Division of Forestry
Expenditures

	TOTAL FTE POSITIONS 11/30/2005	ACTUALS FY 2005	BUDGETED FY 2006	REQUESTED FY 2007	GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION
EXPENDITURE BY PROGRAM					
Cooperative Forestry Assistance	4.00	\$364,654	\$2,410,178	\$2,413,456	
Fire Mobilization & Suppression	7.00	706,745	601,023	610,406	
Forest Tree Nursery	7.50	272,648	316,110	318,941	
Technical Forestry Services	100.00	5,866,891	7,517,361	7,071,440	
Urban & Community Forestry	4.00	218,934	289,857	212,864	
Less: Reappropriated		0	0	0	
TOTAL BY PROGRAM	122.50	7,429,872	11,134,529	10,627,107	11,656,837
EXPENDITURE BY FUND					
General Fund					
FTE Positions		55.00	54.00	54.00	54.00
Total Personal Services		1,533,906	1,709,440	1,678,390	1,725,190
Employee Benefits		614,897	816,188	796,577	796,577
Other Expenses		397,659	471,569	471,569	471,569
Less: Reappropriated		0	0	0	0
Subtotal: General Fund		2,546,462	2,997,197	2,946,536	2,993,336
Federal Fund					
FTE Positions		10.00	11.00	11.00	11.00
Total Personal Services		382,235	435,399	427,604	435,399
Employee Benefits		139,652	135,494	129,860	135,494
Other Expenses		1,113,797	2,648,742	2,648,742	3,574,911
Subtotal: Federal Fund		1,635,684	3,219,635	3,206,206	4,145,804
Appropriated Special Fund					
FTE Positions		57.50	57.50	57.50	57.50
Total Personal Services		1,664,224	2,109,786	2,106,312	2,109,786
Employee Benefits		360,286	815,803	796,470	815,803
Other Expenses		1,223,216	1,592,108	1,571,583	1,592,108
Less: Reappropriated		0	0	0	0
Subtotal: Appropriated Special Fund		3,247,726	4,517,697	4,474,365	4,517,697
Nonappropriated Special Fund					
FTE Positions		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Personal Services		0	0	0	0
Employee Benefits		0	0	0	0
Other Expenses		0	400,000	0	0
Subtotal: Nonappropriated Special Fund		0	400,000	0	0
TOTAL FTE POSITIONS BY FUND	122.50	122.50	122.50	122.50	122.50
TOTAL EXPENDITURES BY FUND		\$7,429,872	\$11,134,529	\$10,627,107	\$11,656,837

Division of Forestry
Programs

Cooperative Forestry Assistance

Mission

The mission of Cooperative Forestry Assistance is to assist in rural area development and improve the quantity and quality of forest resources on private land through federal cost-share program administration, as well as through technical and financial assistance provided by public and private foresters.

Goals/Objectives

- Award 55 grants annually to forest landowners under the federal Forest Land Enhancement Program.
- Contract with and train 50 consultants annually to write forest management plans for forest landowners under the Federal Forest Stewardship Program.
- Provide 12 educational workshops annually for West Virginia registered professional foresters.
- Assist landowners with harvesting and marketing of forest products on at least 3000 acres annually, as funding allows.
- Provide planning and technical guidance for commercial reforestation of ten surface mined areas annually.
- Purchase conservation easements for forestland totaling approximately 1,500 acres annually using the USDA Forest Service Forestry Legacy program.

Performance Measures

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Actual 2003</u>	<u>Actual 2004</u>	<u>Estimated 2005</u>	<u>Actual 2005</u>	<u>Estimated 2006</u>	<u>Estimated 2007</u>
Forestry consultants placed under contract for stewardship plans	61	42	60	60	50	50
Forestland property harvested with technical assistance (in acres)	3,109	3,553	3,000	3,553	3,000	3,000
Forestland placed under conservation easement (in acres)	N/A	N/A	150	0	150	2,800

Fire Mobilization and Suppression

Mission

The mission of Fire Mobilization and Suppression is to reduce the wildfire occurrences and acreage burned in West Virginia.

Goals/Objectives

- Alert the general public of current and projected levels of wildfire danger.
- Conduct a minimum of 575 wildfire prevention programs each year, primarily in elementary schools.
- Reduce the occurrence of human caused wildfires.
- Improve wildfire response time from one hour and ten minutes to one hour.
- Train volunteer fire department personnel for wildland fire suppression and provide them with lightweight fire fighting protective clothing.
- Supply volunteer fire departments with fire suppression equipment worth over \$1 million annually via the federal Excess Personal Property program.
- Educate forest landowners and the general public of the damage caused by wildfires.
- Rebid the aerial fire suppression contract by October 2006.

Performance Measures

- ✓ Initiated the red flag fire danger alerting system in FY 2005.

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Actual 2003</u>	<u>Actual 2004</u>	<u>Estimated 2005</u>	<u>Actual 2005</u>	<u>Estimated 2006</u>	<u>Estimated 2007</u>
Wildfire prevention programs conducted	613	601	575	585	575	575
Wildland fire suppression training	164	142	150	108	150	145

Forest Tree Nursery

Mission

Forest Tree Nursery provides a dependable source of quality forest tree seedlings for reforestation, Christmas tree production, reclamation, erosion control, and wildlife habitat improvement purposes.

Goals/Objectives

- Operate a forest tree nursery to produce 1.5 million forest tree seedlings annually.
- Maintain the number of native tree seedlings produced at the nursery at 75% of total seedling production.
- Maintain a seed orchard for superior seed production of yellow poplar and white pine.
- Produce annually a minimum of 15,000 thousand American chestnut, chinquapin, and butternut seedlings to enhance the regeneration programs for these species.

Performance Measures

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Actual 2003</u>	<u>Actual 2004</u>	<u>Estimated 2005</u>	<u>Actual 2005</u>	<u>Estimated 2006</u>	<u>Estimated 2007</u>
Seedlings processed and shipped (in millions)	1.4	1.0	1.0	1.4	1.5	*1.2
A. Chestnut, Chinquapin, and butternut seedlings produced (in thousands)	33.49	27.06	20.00	19.89	22.74	22.51

* Seedling production will be down because of failure of seed to germinate as expected.

Technical Forestry Services

Mission

Technical Forestry Services assists the forest landowners and industry to protect, manage, and utilize the forest resources of the state in an economically beneficial and environmentally sound manner so as to improve the health and productivity of the forest resources (mandated under W.Va. Code §§19 and 20).

Goals/Objectives

- Develop forest land management plans for 250 landowners of forested acreage promoting active multiple use management (e.g., for timber products, nontraditional forest products, hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, wildlife habitat, bird watching).
- Limit the damage resulting from forest fires.
- Inspect each timber harvesting operation three times (i.e., during initial start, middle, and closeout) by 2012.
- Increase the utilization of forest resources through improved operational efficiency.

Division of Forestry Programs

- Conduct ten classes each year to educate landowners and the industry of the need to protect and manage the forest resource annually.
- Develop and maintain silvicultural demonstration areas on eight state forests.
- Increase the number of stewardship certified and registered foresters available to assist forest landowners.

Performance Measures

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>2003</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>2004</u>	<u>Estimated</u> <u>2005</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>2005</u>	<u>Estimated</u> <u>2006</u>	<u>Estimated</u> <u>2007</u>
Forest land plans developed	195	203	250	345	250	250
Acres included in the newly developed forest land plans	22,607	14,545	30,000	34,875	30,000	20,000
Percent of goal for inspections of timbering operations	50%	53%	60%	55%	60%	70%

Urban and Community Forestry

Mission

The mission of the Urban and Community Forestry program is to provide leadership and promote long-term tree care programs for cities and communities throughout the state.

Goals/Objectives

- Encourage 50 communities each year to develop long-term tree care programs through technical and financial assistance.
- Provide six tree planting and/or tree pruning training workshops each year to local government and volunteers involved with tree care activities.
- Award ten Demonstration City, Cool Community, and Mountaineer Treeways program grants to communities for tree planting projects.
- Recruit 20 volunteers to become a component of all urban forestry programs annually.

Performance Measures

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>2003</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>2004</u>	<u>Estimated</u> <u>2005</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>2005</u>	<u>Estimated</u> <u>2006</u>	<u>Estimated</u> <u>2007</u>
Assists to communities	184	200	150	215	130	150
Urban trees established/maintained	3,029	3,269	3,000	*1,306	2,000	2,500
Pruning/planting workshops conducted	5	7	5	5	6	6

* The National Tree Trust program ended during FY 2005.